

of Amar Nath in view of visit of lakhs of pilgrims every year especially in view of the disastrous unfortunately tragedy of last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed indicating the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) There is already a motorable road from Jammu to Anantnag (Khanabal)-Pahalgam-Chandanwari. From Chandanwari to holy Cave at Amarnath, a 32 Km. track exists. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have taken necessary steps to improve the track enroute to Amarnath Cave. Keeping in view the recommendations made by Dr. Sengupta Committee in this regard. The State Planning Department has provided funds to the tune of Rs. 1.28 crores for maintenance/repair of Khanabal-Chandanwari Road. The track from Chandanwari to Holy Cave, including the bridges enroute have been repaired, and maintained properly.

Extradition Treaty .

2405. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed extradition treaty with Hong Kong before it was handed over to China;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether this agreement has been ratified by the Chinese Government now in occupation of Hong Kong; and

(d) the total number of extradition treaties entered into and to what extent these have helped India in curbing extremist activities operating outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir, India has signed extradition treaty with Hong Kong on 28.6.1997.

(b) Sir, The agreement would provide a broad legal basis and procedural mechanisms to enable each country

to arrest and extradite fugitive offenders, both accused or convicted of offences agreed to under its provisions.

In urgent cases, the agreement provides for the provisional arrest of a fugitive offender, pending the receipt of formal extradition request, where a request for such provisional arrest is made. This would help prevent fugitive offenders from escaping with an intent to avoid legal action.

The agreement also provides for the surrender of a fugitive offender to another jurisdiction for prosecution or the imposition or enforcement of a sentence. It would work as a deterrent against the conduct of criminal activities.

(c) Sir, according to the Sino-British joint declaration of 1984, extradition treaties concluded by Hong Kong with other countries which are in force on the date of transfer of sovereignty, will continue to be in force even after the transfer. Hence, there is no need for a fresh ratification of the agreement by China.

(d) Yes Sir, India has signed extradition treaties with Canada, U.K., Nepal, Bhutan, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, USA and Hong Kong. Apart from these countries, India also has extradition arrangements with Tanzania, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, Germany and Sweden, having extended the application of the Indian Extradition Act to these countries.

Sir, extradition treaties have helped India in receiving back for trial some notorious criminals involved in grave crimes/extremist activities, namely Shri Om Prakash Srivastava and Babloo Srivastava from Singapore, Shri Daya Singh Lahoria and his wife Suman from USA. The extradition of Shri M.I. Brodia has also been cleared by US authorities. In addition the agreements concluded would provide a legal basis for seeking extradition of fugitive offenders required in India. In the absence of such agreement, it would be difficult to legally enforce or process our requests to foreign states.

Import and Smuggling of Whisky

2406. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a study conducted by United Distillers, an international distiller stating that Indians consume about 32 million cases of whisky per year making India the second largest consumer of this brand of alcohol;

(b) if so, the quantity of whisky imported, smuggled in and indigenously produced, separately;

(c) whether the Government have any programme to bring about prohibition of the consumption of alcohol under Article 47 of the Constitution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Joint Venture for Five-Star Hospital

2407. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has awarded a plot of prime land measuring 15 acres to Indraprastha Hospital Corporation Limited for a token amount of Rupee 1 and entered into an agreement for establishing a joint-venture five-star hospital in the Capital;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the joint venture laid down;

(c) the extent to which the terms of the agreement are being implemented and the benefit being accrued to the common public;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the allegations of corruption and malpractices levelled against the management of the said hospital;

(e) if so, whether Government are considering to take over the management of the said hospital; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) As per the agreement with the Administrator, Delhi and M/s Apollo Hospital, it was decided to jointly promote and to register a Public Limited Company under the name of Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd., with the objective of setting up a hospital in Delhi. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has acquired 26% equity share of the Apollo Hospital. An area of 15 acres was also placed at the disposal of the joint venture company at concessional rates of construction of the building. It was agreed among other things that the Corporation will make available not less than one third of total capacity of 600 beds for the poor and also treat 40% poor out patients free. This Hospital has yet to provide these facilities to the public.

(d) No such report has been received in the Ministry.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Building on Rent for CGHS Dispensary

2408. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per policy of CGHS, the advertisements for hiring building on rent for opening of CGHS dispensary in any area is given in newspapers first and the dispensaries are sanctioned even on later stage;

(b) if so, the authorities responsible for keeping the rented buildings vacant till the CGHS dispensary is sanctioned for that area;

(c) if not, the circumstances under which the advertisement for hiring a building in Vasant Vihar was given in Newspapers on January 1, 1990 whereas the dispensary has not been sanctioned till date, and

(d) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The advertisement for hiring a building is generally given only after issue of a sanction for opening of a CGHS dispensary in a particular area. However, advertisements can be occasionally given to understand the availability and cost of hiring accommodation at specific places.

CGHS have reported that no building has been taken on rent prior to its establishment being sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Since suitable rented space was not available to house the dispensaries sanctioned at identified locations, advertisements were given for different locations considered feasible at that time, as an alternative measure. One such location was Vasant Vihar. Since then the sanctioned dispensaries have been established at the locations decided upon. The Vasant Vihar area has been covered by R.K. Puram Dispensaries of Sector VI and Sector VIII.

Violation of Supreme Court's Orders

2409. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the decision of the Supreme Court a patient once reached to a hospital, is not to be refused admission and treatment but in spite of such an order the hospitals are refusing admission/